

**Priority question for written answer P-000674/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Sustained increase in the price of wood and construction materials in the EU

The high prices for building materials such as wood that we have experienced since the pandemic started are still not easing.

This can be seen in the development of timber prices, which have increased by 30 to 60 % during the pandemic. The reasons for this include containment measures, massive purchases of European timber by China, significant export restrictions imposed by Russia (against which the EU has already lodged an appeal with the World Trade Organization) and global transport costs, which in some cases have risen by up to 400 %.

During the debate in Parliament on 8 July 2021 (on the sustained price increase of raw and construction materials), the Commission said that it would analyse developments in supply chains.

1. What conclusions has the Commission drawn from its observations?
2. Is it considering developing an EU strategy to ensure that building materials, including wood, are available at affordable prices to enable supply chains in the EU to function without significant stock shortages?
3. Is it planning to take any immediate measures, such as tackling massive exports outside the EU, in order to curb the cost explosion, especially of wood, also in preparation for the forthcoming 'renovation wave', which will require considerable efforts?